(b) if so, whether any action was taken to reduce the economic cost; and

(c) if so, the action taken, alongwith the timing of action and the result thereof with regard reducing the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) To arrive at ways and means for reducing the Economic Cost of wheat and rice an independent consultant namely, the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, has been engaged to study the cost of acquisition and distribution of foodgrains by the FCI. Further measures to contain/reduce the economic cost will be taken by the FCI/Government on receipt of the report of the A.S.C.I., Hyderabad and decisions thereon.

Import of Wheat

4276. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite excess stock of wheat in Indian granaries, wheat was imported;

(b) if so, why this has been done deliberately;

(c) the financial details of the imported wheat in the last fiscal year; and

(d) the cost per tonne of imports and its sale price in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) There has been no import of wheat on Government account during the last financial year i.e. 1999-2000. Government has imposed 50% duty on wheat imports w.e.f. 1-12-1999, which has checked the import of wheat on private account also.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

PDS Sugar to income-tax Assessees

4277. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy of not supplying sugar through PDS to the IT assesses is not being implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether Government have received requests from different States